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Application No. 10/709,535
Technology Center 3733
Amendment dated October 9, 2007
Reply to Office Action dated July 6, 2007

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A prosthetic device comprising:

a first elongate member having a longitudinal axis, oppositely-disposed first and second ends, an exterior surface between the first and second ends, and a channel in the exterior surface and contiguous with the second end;

a second elongate member disposed in the channel so as to have a first end disposed in the channel and a second end that extends beyond the second end of the first elongate member, wherein at least a portion of the second elongate member disposed within the channel is externally visible as a result of the channel being open along the exterior surface between the first and second ends of the first elongate member; and

means for securing the second elongate member to the first elongate member while the second elongate member is disposed in the channel;

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wherein the first and second elongate members and the securing means are formed from materials that do not release carcinogenic byproducts when burned.

Claim 2 (Currently amended): The prosthetic device according to claim 1, wherein the first and second elongate members are formed of cellulosic materials. ~~wood.~~

Claim 3 (Original): The prosthetic device according to claim 1, wherein the first elongate member has a substantially rectilinear cross-section.

Claim 4 (Original): The prosthetic device according to claim 1, wherein the channel defines two walls in the exterior surface on either side of the channel, and the securing means engages the second elongate member and at least one of the walls.

Claim 5 (Original): The prosthetic device according to claim 4, wherein the securing means comprises a plurality of complementary bores in the second elongate member and at least one of the sidewalls of the first

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elongate member, and at least one pin received in a pair of the plurality of complementary bores.

Claim 6 (Original): The prosthetic device according to claim 1, wherein the channel defines two sidewalls in the exterior surface on either side of the channel and a base wall between the sidewalls, and the securing means engages the second elongate member and the base wall.

Claim 7 (Original): The prosthetic device according to claim 6, wherein the securing means comprises a plurality of complementary bores in the second elongate member and the base wall of the first elongate member, and at least one pin received in a pair of the plurality of complementary bores.

Claim 8 (Original): The prosthetic device according to claim 1, further comprising a block member secured to the first end of the first elongate member, and fastening means extending from the block member in a direction transverse to the longitudinal axis of the first elongate member.

Claim 9 (Original): The prosthetic device according to claim 1,

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further comprising a block member secured to the second end of the second elongate member, the block member having a longitudinal axis transverse to the longitudinal axis of the first elongate member.

Claim 10 (Original): The prosthetic device according to claim 9, further comprising fastening means extending from the block member in a direction parallel to the longitudinal axis thereof.

Claim 11 (Original): The prosthetic device according to claim 1, further comprising fastening means extending from the first end of the first elongate member in a direction parallel to the longitudinal axis thereof.

Claim 12 (Original): The prosthetic device according to claim 1, further comprising fastening means extending from the second end of the second elongate member in a direction parallel to the longitudinal axis of the first elongate member.

Claim 13 (Original): The prosthetic device according to claim 1, wherein the channel is not contiguous with the first end of the first elongate

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member.

Claim 14 (Original): The prosthetic device according to claim 1, wherein the channel and the second elongate member have complementary rectilinear cross-sections.

Claim 15 (Currently amended): A prosthetic device comprising:
multiple solid nontubular elongate members of different lengths, at least some of the elongate members being longitudinally aligned in series with each other so as to be longitudinally spaced apart from each other and have adjacent facing ends that are longitudinally spaced apart from each other so as to define a longitudinally gap therebetween; and
means between the facing ends of the elongate members for securing the elongate members together and spacing at least some of the elongate members longitudinally apart;
wherein the elongate members are formed of materials that do not release carcinogenic byproducts when burned.

Claim 16 (Original): The prosthetic device according to claim 15,

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wherein the elongate members have solid cylindrical shapes and substantially equal diameters.

Claim 17 (Original): The prosthetic device according to claim 15, wherein the securing means comprise wooden dowels.

Claim 18 (Original): The prosthetic device according to claim 15, further comprising threaded fasteners on at least one of the elongate members located at one end of the prosthetic device.

Claim 19 (Currently amended): The prosthetic device according to claim 15, further comprising a transverse member and means for securing the transverse member ~~secured~~ to one of the elongate members located at one end of the prosthetic device, the transverse member having a solid cylindrical shape and being oriented so as to be transverse to the longitudinal alignment of the elongate members, the securing means interconnecting a cylindrical surface of the transverse member to the one of the elongate members.

Claim 20 (Currently amended): A prosthetic device comprising:

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a first elongate member having a longitudinal axis, oppositely-disposed first and second ends, an exterior surface between the first and second ends, and a channel in the exterior surface, the channel having a rectilinear cross-section that defines two sidewalls in the exterior surface on either side of the channel and a base wall between the sidewalls, the channel being contiguous with the second end but not the first end of the first elongate member;

a second elongate member disposed in the channel so as to have a first end disposed in the channel and a second end that extends beyond the second end of the first elongate member, at least a portion of the second elongate member disposed within the channel being externally visible as a result of the channel being open along the exterior surface between the first and second ends of the first elongate member, the second elongate member having a rectilinear cross-section complementary to the rectilinear cross-section of the channel; and

means for securing the second elongate member to the first elongate member while the second elongate member is disposed in the channel, the securing means comprising a plurality of complementary bores in the second elongate member and at least one of the base wall and sidewalls of the first

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elongate member, and at least one pin received in a pair of the plurality of complementary bores;

wherein the first and second elongate members and the securing means are formed of cellulosic materials. ~~wood~~

Claim 21 (Original): The prosthetic device according to claim 20, further comprising a block member secured to the first end of the first elongate member, and fastening means extending from the block member in a direction transverse to the longitudinal axis of the first elongate member.

Claim 22 (Original): The prosthetic device according to claim 20, further comprising a block member secured to the second end of the second elongate member, the block member having a longitudinal axis transverse to the longitudinal axis of the first elongate member.

Claim 23 (Original): The prosthetic device according to claim 22, further comprising fastening means extending from the block member in a direction parallel to the longitudinal axis thereof.

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Claim 24 (Original): The prosthetic device according to claim 20, further comprising fastening means extending from the first end of the first elongate member in a direction parallel to the longitudinal axis thereof.

Claim 25 (Original): The prosthetic device according to claim 20, further comprising fastening means extending from the second end of the second elongate member in a direction parallel to the longitudinal axis of the first elongate member.